

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Hearing on “S. 1009, The Chemical Safety Improvement Act”
November 13, 2013**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

We welcome our Senate colleagues and commend their bipartisan efforts to modernize regulation of chemicals in commerce.

We are also pleased to welcome the administration’s views. We want to work closely with EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention as we explore options for legislation that the agency will implement for years to come. We also welcome our stakeholder panel. While each witness has distinct views, your leadership is vital in making further progress possible.

Speaking of leadership, we must acknowledge the vital role of our late colleague, Senator Frank Lautenberg – his dedication, his wisdom, his expertise, and his collaborative spirit. S. 1009, with its impressive array of original cosponsors, reflects the deep respect his colleagues had for him when they had the privilege of working by his side.

An appropriate tribute to Senator Lautenberg and his family would be a bill that becomes law.

But enacting a bill with elements as important and complex as S. 1009 won’t be easy, and several questions remain:

- Can we give EPA the right resources and tools to tackle a huge workload sorting out thousands of chemicals?
- Despite the work volume, can we ensure agency decisions are grounded in sound science?
- Can we reassure all Americans that chemicals that touch their lives are safe?
- Can we facilitate one integrated, healthy market for chemical products in the U.S., instead of a patchwork of restrictions?
- Can we protect innovation and still get government officials and health care professionals the information they need to do their jobs?

With questions this tough, we can’t expect that all provisions of the legislation will satisfy everyone. But we intend to listen carefully to stakeholders and we will work arm-in-arm with members in both parties who want to work constructively toward a common goal: enacting legislation to modernize chemical regulation.

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